

REMARKS

Claims in the case are 34-46, upon entry of this amendment. Claims 23-28 and 30-33 have been cancelled herein. No claims have been amended, and no claims have been added herein.

Entry of the present amendment is respectfully requested as it cancels claims that stand finally rejected.

Applicants note with appreciation the entry of their submission filed 9 January 2004 with their Request for Continued Examination under 37 C.F.R. §1.114.


Applicants note with appreciation the approval of the drawings. If an Office Draftsman further objects to the drawings, Applicants will accordingly address such objections.

Claims 23-28 and 30-33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 4,534,652 (**Stade**) in view of United States Patent No. 4,474,473 (**Higuchi et al**). Claims 23-28 and 30-33 have been canceled by amendment herein. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested in light of the cancellation of the rejected claims.

Applicants note with appreciation the statement of allowable subject matter as to Claims 34-46, on page 4 of the Office Action of 28 January 2004.

In light of the amendments herein and the preceding remarks, Applicants' presently pending claims are deemed to define an invention that is unanticipated, unobvious and hence, patentable. The issuance of a Notice of Allowance at an early date as to allowed Claims 34-46 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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